

Region 1 2015 “Volunteers Working with Invasives” Proposal Format

National Wildlife Refuge(s): Tualatin River NWR

Name of Project: Integrating Volunteers Into the Refuge Integrated Pest Management Strategy

Contact Person(s): Erin Holmes

Total amount requested: \$15,000

Project Description (20 Points): As one of 14 priority urban wildlife refuges and a flagship urban refuge in Region 1, Tualatin River NWR is well-positioned to leverage a large group of volunteers and partners for invasive species prevention, control, and monitoring efforts. With over 200 volunteers and 130,000 visitors annually, the refuge can have an exponential impact in fostering conservation through combating invasive species. We will accomplish this through:

Invasive Species Prevention: The Friends will 1) staff an outreach booth at the Oregon Science Teachers Association (OSTA) Annual Conference to highlight the “Don’t Let it Loose” campaign and 2) incorporate an interactive invasive species education trunk into the existing refuge Environmental Education program.

Invasive Species Control through Treatment and/or Restoration: Volunteers will 1) conduct at least 6 work parties to treat priority invasive species on 62 acres of priority habitat (Scotch broom – 11 acres of mixed forest, red hawthorn – 12 acres of riparian forest, cocklebur – 39 acres of seasonal wetlands); 2) implement, maintain, and monitor a 10-acre riparian and mixed forest restoration project on previously abandoned farmland; 3) complete a removal project to eliminate 100% of invasive species (i.e., bullfrogs, nutria, non-native rough fish, and Eurasian water milfoil) from delivery channel that feeds 160 acres of seasonal wetlands.

Invasive Species Inventory, Surveillance, and/or Monitoring: Volunteers conducting biological surveys will go through an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) training program to identify and report priority invasive species (i.e., purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard) not yet established on the refuge.

Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points): *Contact: Trevor Sheffels, Friends Habitat Restoration and Biological Coordinator.* The Friends of Tualatin River NWR is an ideal project partner, as demonstrated by being recognized as the 2014 Friends Group of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Friends of TRNWR will provide program development, volunteer recruitment and management, and outreach. We will reach existing and new volunteers through the Friends monthly update newsletters, social media, and the USFWS Take Time to Connect program.

Other Partners (10 Points): *Work parties for control/treatment:* USFWS R1 Employees (Take Time to Connect), The Nature Conservancy, George Fox University, Oregon Master Naturalists, Clean Water Services; *Invasive species education trunk:* Tualatin Riverkeepers

Criteria for Project Success (10 Points): (within +/- one year of award) ♦ 50 volunteers trained in invasive species ID/control; ♦ 6 volunteer invasive species treatment/control work parties; ♦ 500 volunteer hours for treatment/control; ♦ 62 acres treated; ♦ 100% of aquatic invasives removed from wetland delivery channel; ♦ 300 OSTA teachers reached with the “Don’t Let it Loose” message.

Budget: Please provide line item descriptions of the expenses that make up your budget.

Friends volunteer and program coordination through Cooperative Agreement Award	\$15,000
In-kind match (volunteer hours for treatment/control)	\$11,275

Comment [BF1]: Not really what I was looking for here.... I may need to rephrase this question in the future.